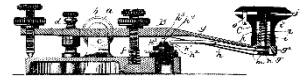




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2016, No. 9

September 2016



Greg Lewis, N5XO, making a presentation how to reduce the loss on VHF and HF transmission lines between radios and antennas on a tower at the SARC meeting on August 11, 2016



Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, President, SARC, presenting Greg Lewis, N5XO, a Program Certificate of Achievement for his excellent presentation

VHF & HF Cable Transmission

At the 7:00 p. m. on Thursday, August 11, 2016, at Grady's Barbeque, the program was on decreasing the loss on transmission lines between radios and their antennas. Greg Lewis, N5XO, is an avid pursuer of decreased losses and discussed his experiences in achieving them.

Greg, N5XO, explained that a 100 watt output from a transceiver is severely cut when using a 100' feed cable of RG213/U, which is what most Hams use. Typical 239 connectors do not help either. Improving the basic cable used and connectors helps, but what really helps is commercial hard line and compression connectors. He had various samples that he passed around. He finally worked his way up to 2 5/8" hardline that had below even 0.01 resistance per 100'. The connectors cost \$130-160. This size of hardline is used commercially. He asks around and picks up scraps that are too short for commercial use of 100'-150'. Greg, N5XO, talked about how such low losses also lead to weak signal reception, which is the reception of signals that a normal transmission line would lose between the antenna and the radio receiver. This talk illustrated that it is possible to improve transmission if the time, effort, and money is put into improving over typical norms.

Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, President, presented Greg, N5XO, with a Program Certificate of Achievement after his presentation.

Decibels Program

Our next club meeting will be at 7:00 p. m. (1900) on Thursday, September 8, 2016, at Grady's Barbeque, 327 E. Nakoma Dr., San Antonio, TX 78216. The program will be a presentation on Decibels by Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW. Come early and join us for supper.

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
9	R		AE5AS		San Antonio, TX		Sept.

TO
W5SC

There is an article in this newsletter about Radio Fiesta 2017, but let me stress that Radio Fiesta 2017 on Saturday, January 14, 2017, is now only a little over 4 months away. It is THE hamfest of San Antonio and as such is important to the broader Ham radio operator community. It is also SARC's only fund raiser as if we did not need more pressure to make it a success. I look forward to members coming out of the wood work when we get to execution just like they did last year.

Our storage problem, i. e., greatly increase rent is on its way to being solved. Joe Bruno, W5AUO, is going to rent us space at advantageous terms (read cheaper than our current storage site). Since he is also Chairperson, Field Day Committee, it will be easier to do inventories and maintenance both of which will facilitate planning and conducting Field Day. I have already signed the letter of intent and the lease is being worked on.

SARC had its tower, antennas, and other equipment in storage ever since it was taken down at KComm. Without a place to erect it, your Board of Directors decided to sell it all. Lew Archer, W0YVY, came up with a lead for some of it. Richard Elder, WB5ACN, came up with a lead for all of it. These actions flushed out a SARC member who bought it all for an amount greater than any under discussion with these leads, but still at an advantageous price for a buyer. This is a threefor: eliminated storage issue, earned money for SARC, and made a member happy.

Please read all of the **Bexar Wire** as there is a lot of good things going on.



Harold

AE5AS

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:
San Antonio Radio Club

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The due date for articles is the Friday before the first Monday of the month.

Emergency Communications –JC Smith, N5RXS, reported that there will be an exercise involving ARES, MARS, and other groups in the fall. Should have more information on it by next month. There will be a Com safe training course Nov 7-10 more info to follow.

Executive – No meetings since last month and none planned for immediate future.

Field Day - Joe Bruno, W5AUQ, reported on the successful Field Day 2016. Can't do 2 things. Need more people. Need small hand held radios for field day. Need to start planning way in advance.

Discussion of original intent of Field Day. Wasn't about points, but to introduce other people and try out new equipment. We do work off the grid with emergency power. Idea of setting up in a location where there are more people. Will start looking for a better location where people can see us, such as a parking lot where there are stores.

Paul Guido reported that our earned points for Field Day was 720 and that are bonus points were 1150. This gives us a total of 1870 points for Field Day 2017.

Finance and Review – Inactive until next January.

JOTA – Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, announced JOTA will be held at the Texas Transportation Museum this year and he is already started coordination with the Boy Scouts. Scotts in uniform will get into Museum for free.

Membership – Tom O'Brien reported the number of 2016 members is unchanged.

He has started working up a different procedure from the one he was working on to obtain each month's new ham list.

Nominating (Inactive-no appointments)

Radio Fiesta – The Chairperson has received information necessary to send out letters to vendors this month and special invitees like the Texas VHF Society.

The generic vendor letter and application has been updated for 2017 and sent to the Webmaster for posting to the website.

VEC - Next regularly scheduled session is 10:00 a. m. on August 27, 2016 at Great Northwest Library.

A special test session will be held that same afternoon for the General Course.

Centennial Commemoration (Temporary) - Tom O'Brien, AB5XZ, reported that ideas have trickled in but no real change. One idea to setup in Alamo Plaza.

Bofang UHF Radio (Temporary) – Joe Bruno, W5AUQ, distributed additional Baofeng radios for \$25 each on behalf of Richard Elder, WB5ACN.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) - None

New Business - None

Announcements For The Good of Amateur Radio

Discussion of a Morse code class came up. It was noted that there is CW Committee.

Ruth brought ARES applications. Membership free. Next meeting 2nd Tue, Brook Emergency Ctr.

Joe found a Ramsey CMOS keyer plan online.

Greg included info on Hamster group for anyone interested on hand out from evening training.

Adjournment at 8:56

Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW
Secretary

The Atomic Clock Sends QSL Cards

The Atomic Clock sends, what else, time over the air using call sign WWVB on 60 kHz. Tom O'Brien, AB5ZX, reports that he can pick up the signal with his HF transceiver. Reception is reported to be better at night although it is pretty faint until late at night. If you pay close attention, you, like Tom, should be able to decode the time code. WWVB, the Atomic Clock, will send a QSL card to anyone who sends a report.



ARRL – AFFILIATED EVENT

Radio Fiesta 2017

The San Antonio Radio Club's Amateur Radio Fiesta 2017 is fast approaching. It is only a little over 4 months away on January 14, 2017. The basic Committee is in place along with its mentor, former Chairperson Rowena Archer, KF5ZHW. The basic Committee is:

Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, Chairperson
Pat Knight, AD5BR, VE Coordinator
Bob Rodrigues, K5AUS, Tailgate Coordinator
J C Smith, N5RXS, Program Coordinator

The Chairperson has established this as an ARRL – Affiliated Event with the ARRL. Among other things, SARC will be able to get a mailing list from ARRL for the flyers to be mailed out in November 2017. Radio Fiesta is listed on the ARRL website, and it is expected to appear in QST at the appropriate time.

Using material primarily from Rowena Archer, KF5ZHW, dealer lists and special invitation lists have been put together. Letters to 31 dealers have been sent. In addition to that invitations to ARRL Division and Section Officers have been sent. Other invitations include the DX Card Checker, MARS, and other Ham organizations. Some responses have already been received, but the Chairperson expects to have to do more follow up.

The Program Coordinator, J C Smith, N5RXS, has already started working on the program. He expects to confirm all details by mid-October 2016 when the flyer to be mailed needs to be finalized.

David Espinosa, W5QS, SARC's webmaster has already made some updates to SARC's website w5sc.org to help publicize Radio Fiesta 2017 and will be making more.

As Radio Fiesta 2017 gets closer, the Committee will be reaching out for help on the day of Radio Fiesta 2017 to sell admissions, sell raffle tickets, secure the doors, run the Tailgate parking lot, and give examinations. For now, SARC is where it needs to be on Radio Fiesta 2017 preparations.



Volunteer Examiners at Work



Pat Knight, AD5BR, Chairperson, Volunteer Examination Committee, and a number of the members of that committee were very busy on Saturday, August 27, 2016. First, they gathered at 10:00 a. m. at the Great Northwest Library for the regularly scheduled 4th Saturday of the even month test session. This test session is open to the public although pre-registration is encouraged.



Volunteer Examiners and license candidates at the Great Northwest Library on August 27, 2016

There was a total of 9 candidates at this session, which took about 2 ½ hours to do. Five candidates took the Technician examination and four candidates started with the General examination. Two and one half hours later Pat Knight, AD5BR, and other members of the committee gathered at Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center. Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, had been teaching a General License Class and that class was now ready to take their General Examination. This was a smaller group of five. At both locations, offers of complimentary membership in the San Antonio Radio Club for the rest of the year were accepted.



Volunteer Examiners and license candidates at the Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center on August 27, 2016

General Class Course Done in August

Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW conducted a General License Course on three successive Saturdays, August 13, 2016, August 20, 2016, and August 27, 2016 at the Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center at 2827 Babcock Road, San Antonio, Texas. Joe Bruno, W5AUQ, assisted him on August 13 and 20, 2016. This was a small class with a total of 6 students. They used the Gordon West, W5YI General Class Book. As always, they taught the material so it would be understood and not simply the test.

Arrangements were made by Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, with Pat Knight, AD5BR, to bring a team of Volunteer Examiners to Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center at 3:00 p. m. to conduct testing as the final part of this General Class. Five candidates took tests and three passed the General License examination.

Lewis Repeaters

Ruth Lewis, Ke5MHJ, and Greg Lewis, N5XO, operate three (3) repeaters. These are all open repeaters in that they are available to every license Ham operator to use. These three (3) repeaters will be listed in the next ARRL Repeater Handbook correctly. They are not all listed or listed correctly in the current edition.

They are:

145.350 PL 82.5 located in San Antonio.

This is a Fusion Repeater supporting both Analog and Fusion Digital.
It covers Bexar County and most counties around Bexar.

147.120 PL 82.5 located between Bandera TX and Pipe Creek.

This is a Fusion Repeater supporting both Analog and Fusion Digital.
It covers the Texas Hill Country, Bexar County, and some areas south of Bexar County.

443.025 PL 82.5 Located at the American Red Cross in San Antonio

This is a Fusion Repeater supporting both Analog and Fusion Digital.
It covers the most of Bexar County and east of San Antonio.

Because of its location, it is used by ARES as an Emergency Communications/Shelter repeater.

SARC has been expressly donated airtime on the 145.350 repeater for us to use. The ARRL Repeater Handbook provides good guidance on how to use an open repeater in a courtesy, sharing manner.



Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, SARC's JOTA Committee Chairperson is working on the plans for JOTA, which is now fast approaching on October 15, 2106. Again, due to help from Pete Shavney, WA3OVH, it will be held at the Texas Transportation Museum (TTM). Scouts in uniform will be given free admission to TTM for the day on October 15, 2016. The hours of operation will be 10:00 a. m. to 5:00 p m. on October 15, 2016. Any HAM radio operator interested in helping with JOTA should contact Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, directly at (210) 887-6618 or bobrod@flash.net.

Legos to the Rescue



MFJ-259B HF/VHF SWR Analyzer

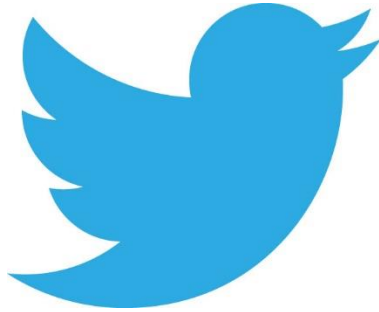


LEGO tire glued in place around push-on, push-off button of MFJ-259B

Tom O'Brien, AB5ZX, reports that his MFJ HF/VHF SWR Analyzer, Model MFJ-259B, suffers from a design defect: its push-on, push-off power switch is not protected from unintentional activation. This means it can be tossed in a field day kit and run its batteries down. In the field, that's a problem, because it uses nine (9) AA cells and takes a small Phillips-head screwdriver to access them (don't drop the tiny screws). Club member Richard Elder, WB5ACN, showed Tom a way to fix that problem. Richard's fix involved gluing a plastic ring around the switch. Tom wasn't able to find the right plastic ring, but he did locate a rubber LEGO tire that would fit. The important dimension on the LEGO tire is the inner diameter, 16mm. It is best to glue it to the analyzer with craft adhesive E6000 sold at Michael's.

Tom O'Brien, AB5ZX, will be bringing a Ziploc bag with a half dozen of the little tires, free to whoever wants one to the next few SARC meetings. He notes that a similar fix was published in QST (KI4RK, July 2004). The beauty of this fix is that is locally field tested.

SARC Tweets



Reminder: there are two Twitter accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

Both of these Twitter accounts are active. The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

As Radio Fiesta 2017 work has commenced, the @ARadioFiesta is being used again for the January 14, 2017 Radio Fiesta.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



This is a copy of the Profile Photo (SARC Logo) and Cover Photo, which is a collage of photographs from various SARC activities this year, on the San Antonio Radio Club Facebook Page after it was refreshed.



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub). The sponsor of this Facebook page is Bryce Weathersby, KE5KFD. He has graciously made the **Bexar Wire** newsletter editor in Facebook page terms an admin for the page.

The newsletter editor has refreshed the San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page. The newsletter editor intends to make posts about SARC meetings and other activities much like is being done with Twitter. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encourage to follow this Facebook Page.

Nominating Committee Appointed

The Constitution and By-Laws of the San Antonio Radio Club require the President of the San Antonio Radio Club to appoint a Chairperson and two other members to the Nominating Committee by September 1, 2016.

During August 2016, Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, President asked Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, Chairperson of the Board of Directors for advice as to whom to appoint. Bob, K5AUW, being an over achiever, responded that Lew Archer, W0YVY, volunteered to be Chairperson and that J C Smith, N5RXS, and he volunteered to be members. Since these members were making it simple, Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, appointed them the Nominating Committee via email with Lew Archer, W0YVY, Chairperson.

The Nominating Committee's charge is to find five members of the San Antonio Radio Club to stand for election. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are one year positions that start January 1, 2017 and end December 31, 2017. The Director position is a five year term through December 31, 2121. Their report on nominees is due at the October 13, 2016 general membership meeting. The election will be held during the November 10, 2016 general membership meeting after additional nominations, if any, from the floor are taken.

Please consider accepting a nomination if one of these men call you.

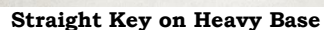
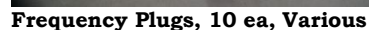
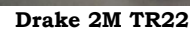
Amateur Radio Equipment Donation

Editor's Note: This is a re-run of last month's article with one correction. The Hammarlund HQ-110 is a Receiver NOT a Transceiver.

Martin Karpowicz and his wife Ann donated some amateur radio equipment on Saturday, July 16, 2016, that had belonged to his brother Gregory Karpowicz, WA5UAN, who is now SK. Martin would rather the equipment be used by a Ham than it be thrown away. This equipment is best characterized as *vintage*.

SARC received the following items with the prices shown being the estimated value with eBay being a prime source for the value:

Hammarlund HF+-6M Radio Receiver Model Number HQ-110 16.5" W x 9.5" H x 9.5"D	\$160
Speaker, 9" W x 9" H x 7.25" D, goes with Hammarlund Radio	\$50
Drake 2M Radio Transceiver TR22 SN 450681 %.25" W x 2.25" H X 7.25 D	\$50
w/ Microphone on Coiled Cord	
Hallicrafters Transmitter Model HT-40 SN 102117 13.25" W x7.25" H x 8.5" D	\$100
Antenna, Steel Whip on Spring Mount Base 50" L PL-239	\$10
EICO In Circuit Capacitor Tester Model 955 SN 13007 .1-50 MFD 5.75" W x 9.5" H x 5.5" D	\$25
Micronta 43-Range Multitester 5.25" W x 6.5" H x 2.5" D in box w/ instructions	\$25
w/ Black and Red Test Probes	
Knight P-2 SWB/Power Meter with Connected Transmission Line Interface Box	\$25
Eico Grid Dip Meter Model 710 2.75" W x 2.25" H x 7" D	\$35
w/ Box of Plug In Coils for Various Frequencies	
Frequency Plugs, Various, 10 total	\$10
Straight Key mounted on heavy steel base with plug cord	\$25



SARC has determined that as a club SARC cannot use any of this equipment. It is being offered to SARC members at this time **AS IS**. *It has not been tested so its condition is unknown.* While SARC officers have a duty to not give away equipment that has a value, they recognize that the estimated values shown are just that. At the same time, the donation was made to SARC to try to maximize the potential for the equipment to get used by another Ham. A member should make their offer to the President of SARC who is inclined to agree to any reasonable offer considering the buyer will be taking it **AS IS**. You can contact the President through the editor whose contact information is shown on page 2 of this newsletter.

11

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: David Espinoza W5QS
W5qs@att.net
 210-287-5036

Amateur Radio License Classes

Plans to offer an Amateur Extra Course are being made.

For more information, contact:
 Bob Rodriguez K5AUW
 Instructor

SARC Meeting Dates for next 12 Months

September 8, 2016
 October 12, 2016
 November 10, 2016
 December (None)
 January 5, 2017
 February 9, 2017
 March 9, 2017
 April 13, 2017
 May 11, 2017
 June 8, 2017
 July 13, 2017
 August 10, 2017

Meetings are held at Grady's Barbeque,
 327 E. Nakoma Dr., San Antonio, TX
 78216 at 7:00 p. m.

Come early and eat with other members coming early.

License Testing Dates for 2016 and early 2017

October 22, 2016
 January 14, 2017
 February 25, 2017
 April 22, 2017
 June 22, 2017
 August 26, 2017

Times and locations along with required document information can be found on SARC's website.

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Field Day 2017

Setup: Friday, June 21, 2017
 Operations: Saturday, June 22, 2017
 & Sunday, June 23, 2017

Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.

More information to follow, but hold these dates.

JOTA

Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air

This year's date is Oct 15, 2016. Plans are to hold it at the Texas Transportation Museum.

For more information, contact:
 Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW

Radio Fiesta 2017

January 14, 2017
 Schertz Civic Center
 More information to follow

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
 JC Smith N5RXS